

## Message Text

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22/45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ARA-06 IO-11 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /083 W  
----- 030214

O R 081839Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5569

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FIELD AZORES

CINCLANT NORFOLK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0142

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (INFO ADDRESSEES CORRECTED TO INCLUDE  
COMUSFORAZ)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: CUBAN FLIGHTS AND MPLA RECOGNITION

1. RAISED CUBAN FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA VIA THE AZORES WITH  
PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO DURING MEETING TODAY JANUARY 8.  
PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE FLIGHTS  
UNTIL RECENTLY. SOME MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (PRESUMABLY  
CRESPO -- SEE LISBON 0122) HAD ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE HIM  
THAT THEY WERE ROUTINE COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS BUT HE DID NOT  
ACCEPT THAT EXPLANATION. SAID GOP HAD NO INTEREST IN  
ALLOWING CUBAN AIRCRAFT TO LAND IN AZORES AND HAD PUT A  
STOP TO IT.

2. I MENTIONED THAT MOST RECENT FLIGHT HAD NOT LANDED AT  
AZORES BUT HAD FLOWN DIRECTLY FROM HAVANA TO CAPE VERDE.

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AZEVEDO SEEMED FAMILIAR WITH THIS. I ASKED IF HE COULD

BE OF HELP WITH GOVERNMENT OF CAPE VERDE. HE NOTED THAT CAPE VERDE HAD PREVENTED US MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM USING ITS FACILITIES AND THAT SAME POLICY OUGHT TO APPLY TO CUBAN AIRCRAFT. HE WOULD SEE IF HE COULD ASSIST IN CONVINCING CAPE VERDE AUTHORITIES THAT IT WAS NOT IN THEIR INTEREST TO ANTAGONIZE THE AMERICANS IN THIS WAY.

3. I TOLD PRIME MINISTER I WAS CONCERNED BY RECENT REPORTS THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WERE AGAIN PUSHING FOR RECOGNITION OF MPLA. AZEVEDO CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE, BUT SAID HE CONTINUED TO OPPOSE SUCH RECOGNITION. RIGHT NOW HE WAS IN THE MAJORITY BUT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG HIS VIEW WOULD PREVAIL.

4. DRAWING ON STATE 004271 I REVIEWED MILITARY SITUATION WITH HIM STRESSING THAT MPLA WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO IMPOSE A GOVERNMENT ON ALL OF ANGOLA BY FORCE. HENCE A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WAS THE ONLY SOLUTION; RECOGNITION OF ONE FACTION WOULD ONLY PROLONG THE WAR. PM AGREED WITH THIS, NOTING THAT TRIBES IN SOUTHERN PART OF COUNTRY WOULD NEVER ACCEPT MPLA DOMINATION NO MATTER HOW MUCH FORCE MIGHT BE USED.

5. I CLARIFIED STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS IN ANGOLA, STRESSING THAT SENATE VOTE REPRESENTED ACTION BY ONLY ONE BODY AND THAT ADMINISTRATION INTENDED TO APPEAL TO HOUSE WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENED. TOLD AZEVEDO WE STILL HAD FUNDS AVAILABLE AND THAT PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY DID NOT INTEND TO ABANDON OUR EFFORTS IN ANGOLA. ARGUMENTS BEING MADE IN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL THAT USG WAS THROWING IN THE TOWEL WERE SIMPLY NOT ACCURATE.

6. AZEVEDO SAID THIS POINT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. PORTUGAL HAD INTERESTS AMOUNTING TO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ANGOLA WHICH IT HAD TO PROTECT. GOP'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS THAT IT NOT BE LEFT HOLDING THE BAG IF US POLICY WERE SUDDENLY TO SHIFT. HE ASKED FOR ASSURANCES THAT WE GIVE HIM SOME ADVANCE WARNING IF WE INTEND TO CHANGE OUR POSITION. TOLD HIM I WOULD CONVEY HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON, BUT THAT I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO WEAKENING OF THE RESOLVE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO PREVENT SOVIET PENETRATION IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ANGOLA.

7. COMMENT: ABOVE CONFIRMS INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT MPLA RECOGNITION ISSUE HAS AGAIN COME UP AND THAT ARGUMENT BEING MADE BY RECOGNITION ADVOCATES (PRESUMABLY COSTA GOMES, CRESPO AND MELO ANTUNES) IS THAT US IS GIVING UP AND PORTUGAL SHOULD GET ON THE WINNING SIDE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. AZEVEDO SEEMED PLEASED AND RELIEVED TO HEAR OF OUR

CONTINUED DETERMINATION, BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS  
HEAVY PRESSURE FROM THE OTHER SIDE. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO  
REINFORCE THE POINTS I MADE WITH AZEVEDO BY CALLING IN  
PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR THEMIDO.

8. AS I LEFT PM PRESS ASKED IF WE HAD DISCUSSED CUBAN  
TRANSIT OF AZORES. I CONFINED MY REPLY TO SAYING A  
RANGE OF ITEMS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BUT DETAILED COMMENT  
WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM PM.  
CARLUCCI

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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